(b) whether it is also a fact that people of India of these 111 enclaves in bangladesh and people of Bangladesh in 51 such areas in India are facing innumerable hardships over last five decades;

(c) whether the joint survey of these enclaves had been agreed by both India and Bangladesh;

(d) if so, whether the joint survey had been completed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) While people staying in these enclaves are well integrated with the surrounding areas, they lack legal rights with respect to property, jobs, medical facilities, schooling, law and order and the electoral process.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Simplified procedure for issuance of passport

1082. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has simplified the rules regarding the issuance of passport to the citizens;

(b) the special features of the simplified procedure done in recent times;

(c) whether Government has initiated action against the erring officers harassing the applicants; and

(d) if so, the details of such cases and the action taken thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement on the salient features of the simplified passport procedures is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Government have been taking a number of corrective measures to check malpractices and deficiencies in Passport Offices, such as regular and surprise inspections including vigilance inspections of Passport Offices, strengthening of vigilance mechanism in the Central Passport Organization and ensuring greater accountability in the working of Passport Offices. Government have been taking action against errant officials by sanctioning prosecution by the concerned agencies or through disciplinary proceedings, as required.

Statement

Statement features of the simplified passport procedures

A Number of decisions were taken to simplify further the Passport Issuance Procedures with effect from 23 December, 2006.

Salient features of the new scheme are as under:

1. Revised Rules relating to issue/reissue of passports

Presently fresh passports are issued under Normal and Tatkal categories—(1) under first category, passports are issued on receipt of clear police verification reports and (2) Under the Tatkal scheme, a passpot valid for 10 years is issued on the basis of a Verification Certificate (VC) obtained from the authorities indicated in para 2(B) and on payment of additonal fee of Rs. 1500/- in case the applicant desired to have the passport in 1-7 days (as opposed to the earlier slab of 1-10 days) and additonal fee of Rs. 1000/- in case the applicant desired to have the passport in 8-14 days (as opposed to the earlier time slab of 11-20 days).

Under the Tatkal scheme, passport are issued on post-police verification basis.

OR

on submission of (i) three documents from the list of following 14 documents given at 2(A), provided one of the three documents is a photo identity document and at least one of the three is amongst the documents indicated at (a) to (i) below, and (ii) a standard affidavit duly attested by a Notary:

2(A) List of 14 documents:

(a) Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC)

(b) Service Identity Cards issued by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Local bodies or Public Limited Companies

(c) SC/ST/OBC Certificates

(d) Freedom Fighter Identity Cards

(e) Arms Licenses

(f) Property Documents such as Pattas, Registered Deeds etc.

(g) Ration Card

(h) Pension Documents such as Ex-Servicemen's Pension book/Pension Payment Order, Ex-Servicemen's Widow/Dependent Certificates, Old Age Pension Order, Widow Pension Order

(i) Railway Identification Card

(j) Income Tax Identity (PAN) Cards

(k) Bank/Kisan/Post Office Passbooks

(l) Student Identity Cards issued by recognised educational institutions

(m) Driving License

(n) Birth Certificates issued under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD Act)

2(B) List of authorities competent to issue Verification Certificates (VCs)

(a) An Under Secretary/Deputy Secretary/Director/Joint Secretary/Special Secretary/ Secretary/Cabinet Secretary in the Government of India;

(b) A director/Joint Secretary/Additonal Secretary/Special Secretary/Chief Secretary in a State Government;

(c) A sub-Divisional Magistrate/First Class Judical Magistrate/Additional DM/ District Magistrate of the District of residence of the applicant;

(d) A District Superintendent of Police, DIG/IG/DGP of District of residence of the applicant;

(e) A Major and above in the army, Lt. Commander and above in the Navy and Sq. Leader and above in the Air Force;

(f) General Manger of a Public Sector Undertaking;

(g) A member of an All India Service or Central Service, who is equivalent to or above the rank of an Under Secretary to the Government i.e. in the pay scale of Rs. 10,000-15,200 or above;

(h) Resident Commissioners/Additonal Residential Commissioners of all State Governments based in Delhi;

(i) Concerned Teshsildars or concerned SHO for an applicant staying in the areas under his/her jurisdiction; and

(j) Chairman/Chairperson of Apex Business Organisations such as Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) in respect of owners, partners or directors of the companies that are members of the concerned Chamber.

2(C) As is the the practice, the passports under the Tatkal categories would be issued subject to post-police verification. The Police authorities would be requested to send the Police verification reports within a period of three months. If no report is received within this period or a clear report is received, the passport will be allowed to run its normal course. However, if an adverse report is received at any stage after issuance of a passport, the PIA (Passport Issuing Authority) shall impound the passport and take necessary action under the passports Act. Tatkal fees as mentioned at APara 1 above would be payable in all Tatkal categories. No proof of urgency is required to be produced by any applicant desiring to apply under Tatkal schem. **Those applicants, who are unable to produce either of the three documents or VC for obtaining passports under Tatkal scheme would be issued passports after police verification.**

2(D) There may be instances where an applicant has a verification certificate and/or the three documents as prescribed in para 2(A), but he or she does not want to pay the additional fee as required under Tatkal. In such cases, Passport Officers will issue the passport within a period of 30 days on post-police verification basis. The applicant will also have to furnish a Standard Affidavit.

3. Employees in the Government Service and PSUs and their immediate family members (wife and minor dependent children only) whose Identity is certified in prescribed proforma by the Head of Department or the Head of the PSU or a person duly authorised by them for this purpose, may be issued a passport valid for ten years without any pre or post-police verification.

4. The necessary certificate in respect of categories at Para 2(b) and 3 above will be given in duplicate by the certifying authority indicating clearly the full name, designation and

address of the certifying authority. One copy of the certificate so given will be returned by the Passport Office by post to the certifying authority after issuance of passport. In case, any indication of a forged certificate is received from the authority so intimated, the passport in question will be impounded and suitable action taken against the holder under the relevant provisions of the Passport Act, 1967. Passport Issuing Authorities **will compulsorily check Passport Information Services on Net (PISON) and Approval Category (PAC) in each and every case** before issuing passports on Post-Police Verification basis.

5. In addition, the following provisions will apply for issuance of fresh passports in the case of the relevant categories of applicants mentioned below:

(A) Minors: No. pre or post-issuance police verification will be required in the case of applicants up to 18 years of age. However, in all cases of minor applicants, concurrence of the parents needs to be submitted in each and every case. For identification purposes, such minor applicants may submit the following:

(a) Valid passports held by the parents/legal guardians along with suitable proof of parentage and prescribed affidavit from a parent

OR

(b) Three documents in respect of the parents as per Para 2(A) above to establish the identity of one of the parents together with suitable proof of parentage and standard affidavit from a parent.

In case of minore applicants up to the age of 18 years, passports would be issued for five years at a time due to frequent change in appearance.

(B) Re-issue cases: Passports would be renewed/reissued for a period of 10 years within three working days under Tatkal scheme on payment of additonal fee of Rs. 1500/- Alternatively, passports would be renewed/reissued for 10 years on payment of normal fee of Rs. 1000/- within a maximum period of 15 days from the date of application. Further, in the absence of anything adverse against the applicant in the notice of PIA, no police verification will be required for renewal/reissue of a passport. In the case of change of address of an applicant, only a document establishing the latest address would be insisted upon.

Mere change of address will not warrant police verification. In the case of major change of physical appearance of an applicant, any one of the procedures listed at paras 1-3 above, as the case may be, for issuance of fresh passports, may be followed to establish the identity of the applicant. An applicant may be allowed to apply for a new passport in lieu of an expired/about to expire passports up to 3 years after and one year before the expiry of the passport. In case a new passport is applied after more than three years after expiry of the old passport, the procedure listed at paras 1-3 above as the case may be, will be followed.

(C) Duplicate passports: In this case, if there is no adverse report in the notice of the passport issuing authority, a duplicate passport in lieu of a lost passport would be issued to an applicant for a period of 10 years subject to production of a police report regarding loss of passport and subject further to the details of the applicant tallying with those in the file of the lost passport in the PISON/PAC system. No pre/post issuance police verification will be needed in these cases. Lost passport circulars are to be issued immediately and Damaged/Revoked/Impounded/Lost (DRIL) passport entries made in PISON system.

(D) Chairman/Chairperson of Apex Business Organizations *i.e.* Federation of India

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) would issue Verification Certificates (VCs) in respect of owners, partners or directors of Companies that are members of the concerned Chamber. Based on these Verification Certificates (VCs) and the standard affidavit, passports would be issued to such applicants for ten years and would be subject to post-police verification.

Indo-French atomic energy cooperation

†1083. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French Government has expressed its intention for cooperation with India regarding the peaceful use of atomic energy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the French Government has assured to agree the other countries of this group to supply of atomic fuel; and

(c) the details of proposals given by French Government and the details of reaction of Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. India and Franch signed a Declaration on the Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes on February 20, 2006 regarding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

(b) and (c) The declaration envisages that such cooperation will be in accordance with their respective international obligations and commitments and the adjustment of international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India.

Hindus in Sindh Province

1084. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindu population in the Sindh province of Pakistan are living under the threat of terror and the number of incidents of kidnapping of Hindus have increased throughout the province;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government had or are considering to have any dialogue with Governments of other countries including Pakistan to curb increasing crimes against Hindus; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Pakistan press has been carrying reports of violence including kidnapping against citizens of Pakistan belonging to minority groups. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a reputed Pakistan based NGO, in its annual reports has also highlighted violence against Hindus in Sindh and other parts of Pakistan. These reports have not been part of bilateral talks between India and Pakistan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.